

Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation

Information

SPRING EDITION
APRIL 2016

Envirothon Teams Place High in Area Competition

Envirothon is the most widely recognized hands-on environmental education program in the nation. Middle and high school students immerse themselves in a year-long learning process that combines in-class curriculum with hands-on field experiences facilitated by resource professionals such as soil scientists, foresters and wildlife specialists. This intense training culminates in a competition where teams are tested in five subject areas: Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and a current environmental issue. Scores determine winning placements. The event was held at Catawba College Center for the Environment on March 8-9.

The Yellow Poplars High School team won 2nd place at the Area VIII Envirothon. Members of the team are Mallory Rogers, Amber Stiller, Lydia Dales, Lexie Burns and Erik Conrad. Advisors are Pat Kopp and Lisa Dales.



The Creation Explorers Middle School team took 2nd place in the Middle School Division. The members are Ethan Wilkins, Stephen Martin, Amelia Martin, Hope Hyatt and Cheyenne McGhee. The team advisor is Felicia Martin.

The Yellow Poplars Middle School team won 3rd place with members Maddie Davis, Bethany Dales, Will Philips, Tony Rogers, Dalton Eury, Robbie Dales and Ethan Loughlin. Pat Kopp and Lisa Dales also advised this Middle School Team.



Agri-Civic Center
26032-C Newt Road
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-986-3059

District Board Members

Terry Blalock	Chairman
John Pickler	Vice-Chairman
Jody Smith	Treasurer
Curtis Furr	Supervisor
Aaron Burleson	Supervisor

District Board Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Stanly County Agri Civic Center. All meetings are open to the public.

District and NRCS Staff

Clint Brooks
District Conservation Tech.
Rita Little
Admin/Education Coordinator
Shauntae Britt
District Conservationist
Chris Childers
Conservation Planner
Grayson Sarif
Soil Conservationist
Lin Taylor
Civil Engineer Technician



Annual Awards Banquet Held February 29th

Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District held their annual awards banquet on Monday, February 29, in the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center.

"We All Live in a Watershed" was the theme of this year's student contests. Following dinner, Stanly SWCD Education Coordinator, Rita Little, awarded plaques for three competition areas.

Poster contest winners were fifth graders:
 First place -Cole Stinnett, Badin Elementary
 Second place-Mary Grace Caudle, Badin Elementary
 Third place-Sophie Waller, Millingport Elementary
 Cole's poster was entered in the Area VIII contest where he won third place.

"Pollution is caused by human activity, and our own actions will come back to hurt us later because bad water...can upset a whole ecosystem. Every drop counts."

Riley Smith, Essay winner

Essay winner was Albemarle Middle School sixth grader, Riley Smith. She began her composition by defining a watershed as a land area that drains to a common body of water. Smith cautioned, "Pollution is caused by human activity, and our own actions will come back to hurt us later because bad water...can upset a whole ecosystem. Every drop counts, so do your best to conserve water and support environmental legislation so we can have a cleaner, safer, and healthier world."

"The soil is able to filter the water, as it travels through the watersheds. This filters out pollutants and keeps our waters clean."

Robbie Dales, PowerPoint winner

The Computer Designed Slide Show (PowerPoint) winner was Robbie Dales, a home school sixth grader at Academy of Wisdom, Character, and Knowledge.

Robbie's PowerPoint went on to win first place in the Area VIII contest and will compete in the State contest in early May.



First place winners left to right: PowerPoint winner, Robbie Dales; Essay winner, Riley Smith; Poster winners (L-R) Mary Grace Caudle, Cole Stinnett, and Sophie Waller

SWCD 2016 Awards Banquet (cont.)



District Conservation Technician, Clint Brooks, presented the Ag Cost Share Update. Soil and Water Conservation Districts implement four cost share programs, all of which share a common goal of increasing water quality. These programs include the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The District accepts applications year round for each of these programs. Received applications are ranked based on various criteria and conservation concerns. The highest ranking application is provided assistance to install best management practices. Cost share recipients are chosen by the application and ranking process. "The Ag Cost Share Program, AgWRAP and CCAP, together all totaled over \$103,000." Brooks shared.

Terry Blalock, Chairman of Stanly SWCD, presented the agriculture awards for 2015.

Each year a farm family is selected to receive the Outstanding Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award. The program recognizes farmers/farm families who have achieved a high level of natural resource stewardship by applying and maintaining innovative and cost-effective conservation practices, are actively involved in conservation education, and have demonstrated strong community involvement. Rodney Huneycutt of Huneycutt Pig Farm accepted the engraved plaque on behalf of his family. Pictured here are (L-R) Rodney Huneycutt, his mother Marie Huneycutt and brother Todd Huneycutt.



Chairman Blalock presented Kevin Baucom a plaque for winning the 2015 No-Till Corn Yield contest. Baucom averaged an impressive 269.39 bushels per acre on a field in Stanly County. Kevin and his family live in Marshville, NC.



Floral table centerpieces, courtesy of Edwards Flowers and Gifts of Norwood, were given as door prizes at the conclusion of the banquet.

Now available... Erosion Control Materials

For more information contact Clint Brooks

704-986-3059

cbrooks@stanlycountync.gov



Straw Single Net

8 ft x 112.5 ft.

\$25.00 each



Excelsior Single Net

4 ft. x 180 ft.

\$38.00 each



Straw Wattle

12 in. x 10 ft.

\$25.00 each



Wood Stake

1.5 in. x 24 in.

Bundle of 25

.75 each

\$16.00 bundle

STANLY SOIL & WATER
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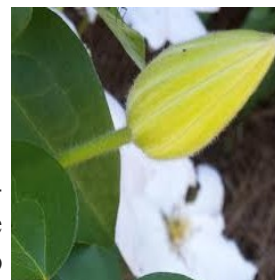
Sod Staples

6" 1000/box

\$30.00 box



Farm Service Agency News...



Enrollment Period for 2016 USDA Safety Net Coverage Ends Aug. 1

Producers who chose coverage from the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can visit FSA county offices through Aug. 1, 2016, to sign contracts to enroll in coverage for 2016.

Although the choice between ARC and PLC is completed and remains in effect through 2018, producers must still enroll their farm by signing a contract each year to receive coverage.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll. If a farm is not enrolled during the 2016 enrollment period, producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program.

The two programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Producers Urged to Consider Risk Protection Coverage before Crop Sales Deadlines

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bioenergy, and industrial crops.

USDA has partnered with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois to create an online tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap that allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP and to explore the best level of protection for their operation. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production, with higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price available, including coverage for organics and crops marketed directly to consumers. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional NAP coverage.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <http://eweapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.



Storage Facility Loans

FSA's Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade storage facilities.

The low-interest funds can be used to build or upgrade permanent facilities to store commodities. Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement and some loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 will no longer require additional security. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

To learn more about the FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with FSA and NRCS before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, then these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.

USDA Non-Discrimination Policy. *The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State Wildlife Conservation Department (SWCD) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communication at (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (Voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD).*

West Stanly High School Agriculture Days

April 4th - 7th were exciting days at West Stanly High School. Approximately 1475 students visited the campus throughout the week. The school provided instruction on various aspects of agriculture to 875 of its students on Monday and hosted West Stanly Middle School 8th graders on Tuesday. The kindergarten classes in the western district were not to be left out. They traveled to West Stanly on Wednesday where the instruction was adapted to their level of understanding. Area Pre-K students visited on Thursday. Stations included small ruminant, beef cattle, soil science, equine science, forestry, and bee keeping. Local businesses also participating were Southern States, Island Creek Landscaping, USDA Meat and Poultry Inspection, Stanly Community College, and Lincoln Technical College. Many thanks to Michael Alexander, West Stanly Agriculture Teacher, and to his students for putting together this wonderful learning experience for these students.





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www.stanlycountync.gov/soil-and-water

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